

St. Thomas Lutheran Church News

September 2014
XXXVII Issue 9



A Word from Bishop Gafkjen

“Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

[Jesus, Matthew 18:15-22, NRSV]

This month, all over this mission territory and across the country, congregations and other communities of faith, large and small, urban and rural and everywhere in between, return to the regular rhythms of congregational life. Sunday School and other education and formation classes crank up. Committees and councils begin to meet again at their appointed hour on whatever second Monday or third Thursday of the month is theirs. Worship attendance returns (we pray!) to its post-vacation season levels. Regular trips to the food pantry or other places of service ministry resume.

The month of September is a busy time, an exciting time, a hopeful and even a tense time in the life of the people of God.

It's also a holy time.

I suspect – actually I know from my own experience – that in the midst of all the planning and preparation and publicity and implementation for this autumn advent we tend to forget that there is something more than just human activity going on. This is not just a class or coffee klatch or kid's program or adult fellowship we are preparing or engaging. As incredible as it may sound given some of the things we do when we are together, it's all part of the gracious reign of God come near and it's steeped in promise.

Where two or three are gathered in my name, Jesus promises, I am there among them.

Where Jesus is, God's reign comes near and things happen; people – and worlds – are changed.

Where Jesus is, forgiveness is offered, received, and shared. Tattered lives are held together in love and healed by grace. Deep, holy hospitality is offered to people who are lonely or wandering or hurting, including even those who show up every Sunday morning or Tuesday night. Broken-bodied, poured-out love is offered and available for all in Sunday School classes and discussion groups, in worship and the coffee hour, in prayer groups and committee meetings, in parking lot conversations and quiet moments in a corner of the narthex...Jesus is there; lives are changed. This is holy time.

Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.

Interestingly, Jesus spoke this world-altering promise as a conclusion to a brief discussion about how to deal with broken relationships in the body of Christ. Surely somewhere along the way this fall, in the midst of the meetings and studies and conversations we now resume, something will go wrong, the fabric of our life together will tear. Even there, where some sin, some selfishness, some hurt or misunderstanding threatens to unravel our life together, even there the promise holds: I am among you. Even there the love we know from a wooden cross and an empty tomb draws near with life-changing, new-world rendering power and grace.

Thankfully, in the midst of all the busyness, the planning, the worry, the hope, the challenge, the joy, the brokenness of autumn days is Jesus, crucified and risen. These are holy days. This is holy work. Jesus is afoot.

+Bishop Bill Gafkjen



ELCA presiding bishop urges prayer, peace amid outrage over shooting death

– August 15, 2014

CHICAGO (ELCA) – In response to the shooting death of 18-year-old Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., which has triggered outrage among some area residents and others across the country, the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), has called for prayer and peace.

“Throughout the gospels, Jesus reached out to the ‘others,’ those whom society deemed utterly foreign. We are at greatest risk when we divide into ‘us’ and ‘them.’ Then, we are unable to see each other’s humanity,” said Eaton. “In Christ, there is no ‘them,’ not Michael Brown, not the community, not the police. All are one. All are ‘us’ and all are Christ’s.”

“We pray that peace will come to Ferguson and the Brown family – peace is founded on the knowledge that in Christ, there is no ‘other,’ only brothers and sisters,” she said.

In an effort to bring the community together, the Rev. Rick Brenton, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Ferguson, said thousands of local residents gathered for a peace march Aug. 14.

“Last night we came together to march and reclaim the streets,” said Brenton. “Somewhere between 2,000 and 3,000 people marched. Clergy from all over the city, from every denomination, creed and origin, came together along with youth and others to peacefully protest. We had also delivered food and toiletries items to residents of the Canfield Green Apartment complex [where police opened fire Aug. 9]. People there are afraid to leave their homes. God’s people deserve better than what has been happening.”

According to Brenton, the march and outreach to residents “was a collaborative effort. We came together and made a difference. It’s an amazing example of God’s love for us. That in Christ, God walks beside us and before us, crossing the boundaries of our lives, exorcising the demons of racism, sexism, classism and ageism to bring hope, healing and new life to our community.”

In an Aug. 14 pastoral letter to members and congregations of the ELCA Central States Synod, the Rev. Roger R. Gustafson, bishop of the synod, said that “St. Louis’ racial divisions and strife are deeply rooted and complex. Related issues – what has been called the militarization of the police, the lop-sided racial makeup of the Ferguson Police Department itself (nearly all White in a predominantly African American community), (and) a struggling local economy – intensify the conflict. Related events – store lootings, peaceful street demonstrations and a police response that has treated them alike – further poison the atmosphere.

“The various elements of this painful drama carry the temptation of distracting us from an even more painful truth, one that’s at the heart of it all: His name was Michael Brown. He was 18 years old. He was Black, and he was killed by a police officer. Had he been White, chances are excellent that he would still be alive,” wrote Gustafson. “But the stark

fact of Michael Brown's death under extremely unclear circumstances points our attention to a larger truth: To be born male and African American in this country is to be born into a clear and present danger."

"We need to talk about race and privilege, but high-level conversations between groups will take us only so far. There is no substitute for personal relationship, for connecting one-to-one with someone who is unlike 'us.' Such relating is not comfortable because it has not been the norm. But it is possible and necessary if we want to become more and more the people who trust in God and God's providing more than we trust in ourselves," he wrote.

For Judith Roberts, program director for ELCA Racial Justice Ministries, the story of Michael Brown "is becoming all too familiar in the headlines. The shooting death of Michael Brown is another example of how young Black and Brown people are targeted in our country. They are stereotyped as a threat, treated as distrustful (and) then it becomes okay to fear them. When you mix that with law enforcement (and) racial profiling, we see the senseless death of a young man with so much promise. I hope and pray the community of Ferguson can work with law enforcement to hold them accountable in improving race relations."

"As this case moves to trial, the verdict will determine how this community can move forward. Will we continue to see a justice system that does not value the life of Black and Brown bodies? The ELCA criminal justice social statement calls for an end to racial profiling, and I believe this church has a responsibility to continue to follow this story," said Roberts.



Singing At-One-Ment - A Workshop on Liturgical Song

Saturday, September 6, 10:00 a.m. to Noon

This year the Worship Committee invited us to begin a process of thinking about Atonement. During Lent we learned about differing theologies of Atonement and this workshop – really, more of a singshop! – will begin with an extremely brisk review of that material and our thoughts and convictions about it. Lamb of God, the song we sing together before the distribution of bread and wine, is an expression of atonement.

The Worship Committee has invited us to propose some alternative ways to sing at-one-ment that could be used seasonally, so for most of our time together we'll be singing and talking over what we've sung.

Join us in exploring this important part of our liturgy.



From Our Minister of Youth and Christian Nurture

This month marks the beginning of another faith-filled year of Christian Education at St. Thomas. My earnest prayer is that we can all grow in Christ's love through our relationships, classes, and spiritual growth groups.

I wanted to share more specifics about my new role, Minister of Youth and Christian Nurture. My primary focus will be with Christian Education and Youth including working with the Sunday Church School, supporting the Spiritual Growth Groups, organizing Adult Forums, participating in various adult education opportunities, and working with the Youth Group. I will continue preaching and pastoral care visits. Additionally, I will serve as a liaison to Lutheran Campus Ministry at Indiana University. My office hours will be posted soon. *However, I am always willing to meet with you and your family at your home, the church office, or around town to talk about faith formation, supporting your family's faith journey, or simply to visit.*

Please be in touch if you would like to talk about any questions, comments, ideas, or dreams you have for Christian Education, our youth, creative ways for our children to participate in worship, or anything else.

Peace,

Colleen Montgomery

Minister of Youth and Christian Nurture

September Youth Group Activities:

- Youth Group Kick-Off: Sunday, September 7, 5:30-7:30pm @ St. Thomas
- Youth Group: Sunday, September 21, 5:30-7:30 @ St. Thomas
- Fall Confirmation Retreat: Friday, September 26 – Sunday, September 28 @ Lutheran Hills



Amigos en Christo *Sunday Church School 2014-2015*

We will kick off this year's Sunday Church School on Sunday, September, 7, 2014 at 9:45am. Children, confirmation students, youth, and families are invited to join us for food, activities, music, and introduction to teachers and programming for the year. We will also be celebrating and learning about St. Thomas' relationship with the Santo Domingo de Guzman Parish in Chichipate, Guatemala. Thanks in advance to the Mission Committee for their help in planning this special gathering!

We are excited to announce our teachers and look forward to installing them during worship on Sunday, September 7 at both services.

Godly Play (pre-K): Sharon Fawbush, Tish Llewellyn, Debbie Nixon

1st-3rd: Cindy Ohslund, Megan Smith, Misty White

4th: Sacha Arterbury, Stephanie Hulett, Kathy McDonald

5th-6th: Dana Barron, Ronna Papesh, Christiana Redman

Confirmation: Colleen Montgomery, Pastor Lyle McKee

High School: Colleen Montgomery

Substitutes: Tania Dimick, Sarah Fogleman, Kelli Skram

If you are interested in serving as a substitute, aide, or supporting this ministry in another way please contact Colleen Montgomery or Kelli Skram.

High School Students: Regular classes for our high school class will not begin until November. *However, students are invited to join the confirmation class on September 7 and September 21 to participate in conversations about the new youth room!*



Come Join the Children's Choir

The St. Thomas Children's Choir is excited to announce its Fall 2014 Season of Rehearsals and Performances. I invite you warmly to come and join us. We rehearse the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of the month from 9:00am until 9:45am. We sing on the 3rd Sunday of the month at the 11:00am service. Song selections include everything from a fun, peppy, traditional song about Jonah to an advent prayer in December. We have instruments or something special to add to our songs most months. Our rehearsals start with a warm-up game which is active involving movement and singing. Then we learn our song and instrument parts. Please come join us for the fun. We would love to have you there. ☺

St. Thomas Children's Choir Fall 2014 Schedule

Sept. 14 Rehearse at 9:00am

Sept. 21 Rehearse at 9:00am Sing at 11:00am service

Anthem: Jonah by Ewald Bash

Orff instruments and drums

Oct. 12 Rehearse at 9:00am
 Oct. 19 Rehearse at 9:00am. Sing at 11:00am service
 Anthem: How Majestic Is Your Name by Mark Patterson
 Finger Cymbals, Chimmettes

Nov. 9 Rehearse at 9:00am
 Nov. 16 Rehearse at 9:00am. Sing at 11:00am service
 Anthem: Go Into the World by Natalie Sleeth
 Possible descant part?

Dec. 7 Rehearse at 9:00am
 Dec. 14 Rehearse at 9:00am. Sing at 11:00am service
 Anthem: Advent Prayer by Mark Patterson'
 Chimmettes



Reintroducing our St. Thomas Nursery Attendant Sarah Stowe



With the return to fall and school-year schedules, we would like to reintroduce our St. Thomas nursery attendant, Sarah Stowe.

Sarah, a longtime resident of Bloomington, came to us highly recommended for her work with young families and the children at the Campus Children's Center. She was hired in May and started as the St. Thomas nursery attendant on May 11th. The approved funds for this *one-year trial* of having a paid nursery attendant came from the 2013 budgetary surplus and not the regular budget. The nursery is equipped and staffed by Sarah and a nursery volunteer

from our congregation; together they provide a consistent and positive experience for pre-kindergarten children during both early and late worship services.

If you have a need for the pre-kindergarten nursery, please stop by the nursery and introduce yourself and your child to Sarah. She looks forward to getting to know and care for your child in the months ahead.



September Adult Forum Schedule

September 7, Culture of Conversation, Sanctuary: Join Pastor Lyle for an open conversation about the ministries and missions of St. Thomas. Feel free to bring questions and/or concerns.

September 14, Spiritual Growth Group Meeting Time

September 21, Meet the Architect, Heritage Hall: See detail below

September 28, Mission Fair, Narthex: Come and learn about all the different missions the folks of St. Thomas are involved in!



Planning for South Property

This Sunday, August 31, 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. in the Conference Room. We will need to decide how to spend our funds in the short term, and we will continue our planning for the long term. Hoping to see you there, Lyle

Be a Part of Our New Men's Group

A new group specifically for men is taking shape. Our first meeting will be on Tuesday, September 16 at 7:00 p.m. (in the Conference Room). Please do some reading/research and come up with a suggestion for starting our study. And feel free to invite a friend to come along. The plan is to meet monthly on the third Tuesday. For more information, please contact Matt Anderson (mattsbr@gmail.com) or the Church Office.



Share Your Passion at the Mission Fair on Sunday, September 28

The Mission Committee would like to invite and encourage you to share your passion and knowledge about whatever service/mission projects you might be involved in either through St Thomas or on your own. The St Thomas Mission Fair is Sunday, September 28 between services and briefly after the late service.

To reserve a table to display literature, photos, objects and more from your organization /activity contact Charlene Braun, brauncharlene@yahoo.com. The Mission Committee will provide a sign for each organization's space.

This event is purely about raising awareness and enthusiasm, not about raising money, so it takes the pressure off and everyone can just share their passion for their activity and learn from each other!



New Book of Faith Series Begins

Our excellent series of bible studies continues this fall with a look at the Gospel of John. This Gospel is unlike the other Gospels in many ways. In this eight-session study, we will explore how the Gospel of John portrays Jesus and his relationship to God, as well as how we are in relationship with God and follow Jesus as his disciples in the world. John provides many opportunities for stimulating conversation and study.

Join in the fun, fellowship, and learning. The first session is set for Monday, September 22 at 7:00 p.m.



Join in Conversation with our Architect

The architect for our congregational building plans will lead information sessions on Sunday, September 21. These sessions will follow both services, and are slated for the Education Hour (9:45 – 10:45 a.m.) and after late worship (12:30 – 1:30 p.m.).

Kevin Stuckwisch, who has worked with us on planning both Phase One (completed in 2007) and now Phase Two (tentatively scheduled for next year) will make the presentations. Kevin will present the details of what is planned, which will include renderings of what the renovations will look like should we decide to move forward following our capital campaign. We have asked for full drawings of the new kitchen, the new drive-up and drop-off entrance, and both exterior and interior views of the expanded heritage Hall. There will be time for questions.

Please make a special effort to attend one of these sessions.

Update From The Finance Committee

It is hard to believe that the summer is beginning to wind down, and we will be entering our fall worship schedule very soon. We welcome back the returning IU students, and our members who have been away over the past few months.

Over the summer months, we typically see a drop in offerings. This summer has been no different. Through the end of July, we are exactly 2% behind our budget projections. That translates into a shortfall of \$7,000. The staff and committees have done a very good job of managing expenses, so we have been able to handle this temporary deficit.

Please take a moment to review your contributions/offerings to date. The Finance Committee understands that situations may change, and that becoming current with your pledge may not be possible. We certainly hope that it is possible. Any assistance to help alleviate this temporary shortfall is appreciated.

Dean Arnold,
Finance Chair



Thrivent Members – Please Note

If you are a member of Thrivent (the Lutheran-related fraternal organization) and if you own certain financial products through them, you may be eligible for their “Choice Dollars” program.

The Thrivent Choice program is an easy way for eligible Thrivent members to recommend how Thrivent should distribute a portion of its charitable outreach funds. If you are an eligible member, please consider St. Thomas when directing Choice Dollars

To learn more about Thrivent Choice, visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.



Retired Group— LOL (Lively Older Lutherans) -55 and Older

You are invited to the annual Oktoberfest at Jane Warner’s home on Lake Lemon. We will meet at St. Thomas church 10:30 am on Friday, September 26th to carpool.

There will be lots of activities -singing, good conversation, board games, cards, croquet, ladder ball, and pontoon boat rides to see Fall colors

Please bring a dish to share (there will be a sign up sheet at church). Brats and table service will be provided. Please join us for a day of fun. RSVP to Jane at 988 -8160 or janewarner@comcast.net
6813 North Shore Drive Unionville IN 47468

**Monday Bible study returns to its regular
Schedule on September 8th at 1:00 pm in
Room 11.**

**Bible Study - Acts of the Apostles
Starting Sunday September 14, 2014
(9:45 - 10:40 AM) Room 11
Everyone welcome.**

Reserve the Date

**October 5, 1:00 pm
Considering the Conversation:
Part 1 Living Well our Final Days
A Caring Community Workshop
Sponsored by Lay Care Visitors**

September Birthdays

9/2 Haley Garl, Sandy Pankow
9/5 Barb Unger
9/6 Megan Smith
9/7 Kris Frampton
9/8 Richard Zellers
9/9 Andrew Goldsworthy,
Mary Krupinski
9/11 John Steele
9/12 David Nixon, Melissa Watters
9/13 David Cline, Jeff Schacht
9/15 Lois Selk
9/18 Isaiah Dilger
9/20 Gloria Hitchcock
9/21 Marilyn Harder
9/23 Matthew Bourkland
9/26 Lissa May
9/29 Darrell Bakken

Congratulations to
Lynn & Ute Coyne on their
43rd wedding anniversary,
September 10th

MCUM Food Pantry Needs for September

Canned fruits & vegetables
Salad dressing
Chicken or tuna in a pouch
Black pepper Salt
Rice (10lb bags or larger)
Household needs: Laundry soap,
bleach and trash bags

Our mailing address is:
St. Thomas Lutheran Church, ELCA
3800 East Third Street
Bloomington, IN 47401
www.stlconline.org

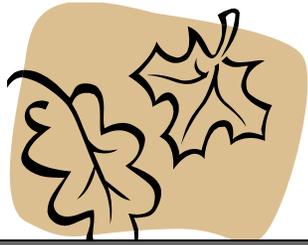
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VOLUNTEER CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

	September 7	September 14	September 21	September 28	October 5	October 12	October 19
	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM
DEACON	Gail Seegert	Kris Stewart	Kathleen Boggess	Kris Stewart	David Rohlfing	Gail Seegert	Kathleen Boggess
LECTOR	Pauline Caldwell	ML Nierzwicki	Judy Bush	Mike Laros	Barb Unger	Dana Barron	Gail Seegert
ACOLYTE	Madelyn Shupe	L Rademacher	E Goldsworthy	A Goldsworthy	Gretchen Wheeler	Madelyn Shupe	Joel Arnold
SERVER	Martha Selk	G Laughman	Barb Unger	Judy Bush	ML Nierzwicki	David Ellies	Jean Brown
USHERS	J/M Doering	D/D Nixon	G/G Laughman	F/ML Nierzwicki	L/U Coyne	J/M Doering	D/D Nixon
GREETERS	Evelyn Niemeyer	B/R Wheeler	Shirley Mingee	G/G Laughman	R/J Brown	Mary Sasse	David Ellies
NURSERY	Misty White	Tiffany Shupe	Susan Krieg	Pauline Caldwell	Misty White	Tiffany Shupe	Susan Krieg
CRUCIFER							

FLOWERS		B/C Gallein	D/S Arnold		F/ML Nierzwicki		Carol Seaman Kaye Hill
BREAD/WINE	Evelyn Niemeyer	Marian Baughman	C/K McDonald	D/K Boggess	L/U Coyne	Marie Briddell	Robin Hershberger
COUNCIL CO	Tim Climis	Cindy Gallien	S/M Eichmiller	Dawn Bakken	John Bush	S/M Eichmiller	S/M Eichmiller
	Maren Foley	Maren Foley	Dennis Baurle	Sarah Climis	Ashley Ahlbrand	Ashley Ahlbrand	
ALTAR GUILD	Mary Sasse	Cindy Gallien					
	Jean Brown	Betty Smith					

	September 7	September 14	September 21	September 28	October 5	October 12	October 19
	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM
DEACON	Ashley Ahlbrand	Ashley Ahlbrand	Sarah Climis	Lyman Hitchcock	Sarah Climis	Lyman Hitchcock	Betty Smith
LECTOR	Chris Ogan	Jerry Smith	Helen Ingersoll	M O'Connor	Ashley Ahlbrand	Betty Smith	Jan Ellis
ACOLYTE	Nick May	M Bourkland	R Bourkland	Nina Daleke	Zach May	Katcha Papesh	Natalie Schacht
SERVER	Gary Ingersoll	Gloria Hitchcock	Sandy Arnold	Ruth Rives	Chris Ogan	Carol Seaman	Stephanie Biehn
USHERS	D/S Arnold	Baurle/Filiatrault	P/L May	Hill/Owens	McDonald/Ohslund	D/S Arnold	Baurle/Filiatrault
GREETER	Marilyn Kelly	Ruth Rives	J Hajos	Charlene Wheeler	S/M Eichmiller	Deb Moore	Katie Anderson
NURSERY	Lauren Wright	Vicki Polansky	Kim Filiatrault	Sydney Arnold	Haley Garl	Cindy Ohslund	Jane Warner
CRUCIFER							



September 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Community Band 7:00	2 U Club Yoga 10:00 Altar Guild 5:30 Worship Co 6:30 Capital Campaign 7 pm	3 Mission Co 6:45 pm Capital Campaign 7 pm	4 Adult Choir rehearses 7 pm	5	6 Property Co 10:00 am Liturgical Workshop 10:00 am
7 Worship @ 8:30 & 11:00 Education Hour 9:45 Youth Group meets at 5:30 pm	8 Biblestudy 1pm Community Band 7:00 Georgetown Condos 7 pm	9 U Club Yoga 10:00	10 Local Growers Guild 7 pm Georgetown Condos 7 pm	11 Finance Co 6:00 pm Adult Choir rehearses 7 pm LGG 7 pm	12 U Club Board 11:30 am	13
14 Worship @ 8:30 & 11:00 Children's Choir rehearse 9 am Education Hour 9:45 Congregation Council 12:30	15 Community Band 7:00 Spinners/Weavers 7 pm	16 U Club Yoga 10:00 Moravian Service 1 pm Georgetown Condos 7 pm Men's Group 7	17 Capital Campaign 7pm	18 Adult Choir rehearses 7 pm Capital Campaign 7pm Georgetown Condos 7 pm	19	20 Bach Rehearsal 1-3
21 Worship @ 8:30 & 11:00 Education Hour 9:45 Architect Presentation 9:30 & 12:15 Bach Cantata 2:30 pm Youth Group meets 5:30 pm	22 Book of Faith 7 pm Community Band 7:00	23 U Club Yoga 10:00	24	25 Adult Choir rehearses 7 pm	26 LOL Octoberfest 10:30 am Confirmation Camp at Lutheran Hills	27 Confirmation Camp at Lutheran Hills
28 Mission Sunday Worship @ 8:30 & 11:00 Mission Fair Education Hour 9:45 Park Ridge East Assoc 3 pm	29 Community Band 7:00	30 U Club Yoga 10:00				